

MICHAEL F. DEARMITT.

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JUNE 1, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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Mr. BROWNLOW, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany H. R. 2369.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2369) to correct the military record and grant an honorable discharge to Michael F. Dearmitt, having had the same under consideration, would report thereon as follows:

It is shown by the records of the War Department that Michael Dearmit, also borne as Michael Dearmitt, was enrolled August 5, 1861, and mustered into service September 21, 1861, as a private in Company C, Seventy-seventh Pennsylvania Infantry, to serve three years; was transferred October 10, 1861, to Company D of the same regiment, and appears to have served faithfully until October 8, 1862, when he was reported absent without leave; that he never returned to his company and was dropped from the rolls thereof as a deserter from October 8, 1862; that it appears from the records of paroled prisoners of war at Camp Wallace, near Columbus, Ohio, that he was received at that camp October 20, 1862, as a paroled prisoner of war, and that he remained there under proper military control until December 11, 1862, when he deserted; that investigation fails to elicit any further information relative to the soldier, and his final record appears to be that of a deserter from December 11, 1862.

The statement of Francis De Armitt, of Fort Wayne, Ind., presented to your committee, states that—

The soldier was in the battle of Shiloh, April 6 and 7, 1862; that on October 8 of the same year he was in the battle of Perryville; that the soldiers fought all day without anything to eat or drink, and when in the act of preparing their suppers were surprised and overtaken by General Morgan, who immediately paroled them, and General Buell immediately sent them to Camp Lew Wallace, at Columbus, Ohio; that the camp there became so crowded that the soldier was compelled to sleep on the ground, with little or no cover except the snow; that under these trying circumstances he wrote to his brother Francis to come and see him, which Francis did; that he found the soldier in such a condition that he should have been in the hospital instead of the camp; that he supplied the soldier's immediate wants and sent him more money afterwards; that exposure had brought on a severe case of rheumatism,

and that he finally wrote his brother to send him money for his return to Huntington, Ind., stating that he had been paroled on account of his being sick and helpless; that such letter was dated December 11, 1862; that the soldier remained only a short time among his friends at Huntington, and then suddenly disappeared; that although Francis has spared neither labor nor means to find out what became of him, he has not as yet succeeded; that at the close of the war Francis received a letter from a military official at Nashville, Tenn., stating that his brother's discharge was made out and ready for him as soon as he applied, but, as stated before, Francis has heard nothing from him since 1862 or 1863.

To the foregoing statement of Francis De Armitt is appended a certificate signed by four residents of Fort Wayne, Ind., and four of Huntington, in which it is stated that Francis De Armitt is known to them to be a man of the strictest integrity, as well as truthful in all he says and does, and that some of them are acquainted with the facts and circumstances related by Francis De Armitt in the foregoing statement, and that they are far from being overdrawn.

Your committee, upon careful consideration of the facts and circumstances, as presented by the papers in the case, feel justified in favorably reporting this bill with the following amendments:

Strike out the words "the Interior," where they occur in line 3 of printed bill, and insert in lieu thereof the word "War."

Added at the end of the bill the following proviso:

*Provided*, That nothing in this act shall be so construed as to grant Michael F. Dearmitt, his heirs or legal representatives, any pay, bounty, or other allowances to which he or they would not have been entitled but for the passage of this act.

Your committee recommend that as so amended the bill do pass.